



Purchasing Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs)

What are EPPs?

EPPs are defined as products or services that have a reduced negative impact on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

Potential Environmental Impacts

EPPs may contain recycled content, minimize waste, conserve energy or water, protect natural resources, and reduce the use and release of toxic chemicals. EPPs also offer human health and economic benefits such as reduced worker illness, improvements in public health and decreased costs associated with waste management and regulatory compliance.

Why should my business buy EPPs?

An increasing number of businesses, government agencies and households are purchasing environmentally preferable products and services to protect their health and provide a safer, less toxic workplace, potentially reduce the amount of regulation they are subjected to, reduce liabilities, and protect the environment. Offering an EPP service, such as "wet cleaning" can make good business sense, as your customers may consider it a "plus" when choosing where they spend their money.

What types of EPP products or services are available?

Due to consumer demand, there are a growing number of products and services that have environmental benefits without sacrificing high performance or cost competitiveness. A list of suppliers is included with this fact sheet. Please note that the list is not comprehensive and does not constitute an endorsement by the State of Connecticut. You can also ask your suppliers or check the Internet for additional products.

Best Management Practices

- ★ Purchase the largest practical container, but don't purchase more than you need. Purchase frequently used products in bulk (e.g., plastic bags) to reduce packaging waste.
- ★ Purchase the least toxic product available. Check the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for products you purchase. If the product is toxic, ask your supplier for alternatives.
- ★ If you do have excess or unneeded materials, see if your supplier can take them back.
- ★ Include the cost of disposal when you make purchasing decisions. What looks like the cheaper option may cost more because of disposal or other management costs.
- ★ Store materials in a way that keeps them from being damaged.
- ★ Use the oldest items first (first-in, first-out).

- ★ Purchase products made with recycled content to close the recycling loop (i.e., create a market for the products you recycle). The quality of these products is just as good as those made with virgin materials and prices are competitive.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Disclaimer

The following is a list of suppliers the CT DEP and/or the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (CT DAS) are aware of that supply environmentally preferable products or services. It is not a comprehensive listing. Nor does a listing in this directory represent an endorsement by the State of Connecticut. Listings are subject to change, so please contact the company for current information. Categories are: Wet Cleaning, Fluorescent Lamp Recycling, and Miscellaneous Products (cleaners, absorbents, etc.).

Category	Phone & Fax	Web Site
Wet Cleaning		
Center for Neighborhood Technology Chicago, IL 60647 An extensive listing (many with prices) of washers, dryers, finishing equipment, and detergents for machine-based professional wet cleaning	Phone: 773/278-4800 ext. 299	www.cnt.org/wetcleaning
Fluorescent Lamp Recycling (Call DEP at 860/424-3297 for other resources)		
Northeast Lamp Recycling	Phone: 888/657-5267	www.nlrlamp.com
Miscellaneous		
Carey Wiping Materials Corp. Cloth and paper wipers, environmental spill products	Phone: 860/224-2459 Fax: 860/229-7870	www.careywiping.com

Dawg, Inc. Recycled absorbent sacks, pillowcases, pads	Phone: 1-800-YEL-DAWG (935-3294) Fax: 1-800-LIL-PAWS (545-7297)	www.dawginc.com
New Pig Absorbent mats, socks, pillows, wipers and rags	Phone: 1-800-HOT-HOGS (468-4647)	www.newpig.com
Northeast Industrial Flooring Chemical resistant coatings for floors, concrete repair and sealing	Phone: 860/292-5920 Fax: 860/292-5922	
Odor Gone of Connecticut Non-chemical odor control additive for use with washing systems and gray water tanks	Phone: 860/564-8968	www.odorgone.com

Pollution Prevention Checklist

✓ Do you look for and purchase alternatives to less toxic products?

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ N/A



Did You Know?

Did you know that the United States consumes approximately 25% of the world's resources with only 5% of the world's population?

2004 Garment Care Fact Sheets

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Office of Pollution Prevention 860/424-3297 www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/garcare/gcindex.htm

Fact Sheet: DEP-P2-GARMENT-CARE-FS-002

Last Updated: October, 2004